



# The Bookworm

From your  
local library  
and Idaho's Read  
to Me program

## Vocabulary

Research shows that children who know and understand lots of different words become better readers. Building a strong "vocabulary" helps children recognize and read written words, and later use them in their writing.

To help your child develop vocabulary:

- Talk to your child, a lot! Research shows that parents who talk to their children more often have children with larger vocabularies, and those children better understand what they read.
- Talk to your child about what is going on around you. Talk about how things work, feelings, and ideas. Listen when your child talks to you.
- Speak in the language that is most comfortable for you.
- Read to your child every day. Children's books have more rare words than everyday conversations. Talk about the stories and the pictures in books.
- Learn together by reading nonfiction (true) books. Help your child pick out information books about the things he or she is interested in.
- When your child talks to you, add more detail to what she says. Expand the conversation and ask lots of questions.



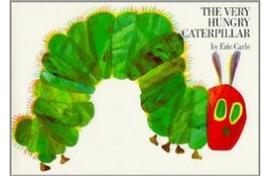
Parents who talk to their children throughout the day are giving them a gift. The language they learn will help them enjoy and understand the

world around them and help prepare them to become lifelong learners.

## Book of the Month

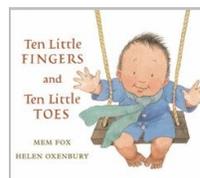
*The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, by Eric Carle

This all-time favorite not only follows the very hungry caterpillar as it grows from egg to cocoon to beautiful butterfly, but also teaches the days of the week, counting, and nutrition. Your child will want to read it again and again!



### More books for building vocabulary:

#### Early Talkers (birth to 2 years)



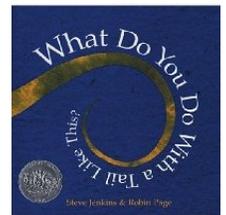
*Ten Little Fingers, Ten Little Toes*, by Mem Fox  
*Planting a Rainbow*, by Lois Ehlert

*Ten Tiny Tickles*, by Karen Katz  
*Bunny Reads Back* series, by Rosemary Wells

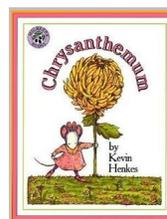
#### Talkers (3 to 5 years)

*What Do You Do With A Tail Like This?* by Steve Jenkins  
*A Huge Hog is a Big Pig*, by Francis McCall

*Too Purpley*, by Jean Reidy



#### Pre-readers (Grades K-1)



*Chrysanthemum*, by Kevin Henkes  
*Biggest, Strongest, Fastest*, by Steve Jenkins  
*Caps for Sale*, by Esphyr Slobodkina

*The Busy Body Book*, by Lizzie Rockwell

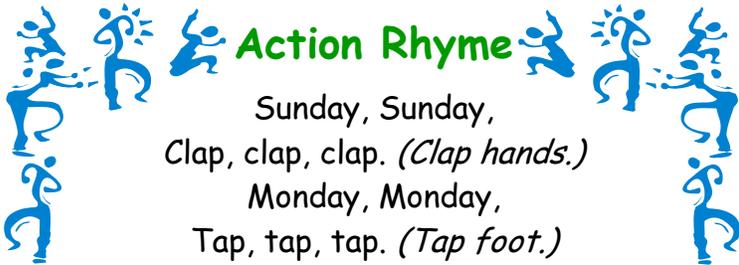
## More fun with *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*...

**Science and nature...** What exactly is that caterpillar doing inside its cocoon? Help your child find out more about caterpillars by finding information books at your library.



**Math connection...** Put several small fruits and vegetables on a plate. Ask your child to put the ones that are the same together in groups. Ask, "How many \_\_\_\_ (blueberries) are there?" Show your child how to touch each one as you count it. "Sorting" objects into alike groups and counting objects by ones are important skills for your preschooler to develop before entering kindergarten.

**Around the house...** Post a calendar in your child's room. Write down special occasions or appointments. Talk with your child each morning: "Today is Monday. It is a preschool day. Tomorrow is Grandma's birthday!"



### Action Rhyme

Sunday, Sunday,  
Clap, clap, clap. (*Clap hands.*)  
Monday, Monday,  
Tap, tap, tap. (*Tap foot.*)  
Tuesday, Tuesday,  
Hop, hop, hop. (*Hop on one foot.*)  
Wednesday, Wednesday,  
Stop, stop, stop. (*Hold up hand.*)  
Thursday, Thursday,  
Jump, jump, jump. (*Jump on two feet.*)  
Friday, Friday,  
Thump, thump, thump. (*Pound fists together.*)  
Saturday, Saturday,  
Turn around. (*Turn around.*)  
Now smile quietly  
Without a sound! (*Sit down and smile.*)

## Song

### "The Little Caterpillar"

(Sing to the tune of "Itsy, Bitsy Spider")

The little caterpillar crawled up into a tree.  
Spun his cocoon and slept so quietly.  
All through the winter he didn't make a sound.  
He dreamt of his new life  
when he could fly around.

While he was sleeping the snow did gently fall.

Winter came and went,  
then he heard the robin's call.

Come on, Mr. Butterfly, out of your cocoon.

Spread your wings and fly for me,  
while I sing my tune.



Brooklyn Public  
Library  
"First Five Years"

### What your library can do for you...

Talk with your local librarian about non-fiction or "true" books that will match your child's interests. You will have great fun reading and learning with your child.

Funding for this project is made possible by the Idaho Commission for Libraries' Read to Me program, and the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under a provision of the Library Services and Technology Act.

